

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Alexander Zinchuk on January 7, 2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. In claim 24 line 1 delete "according to claim (22)" and insert **--according to claim 22--**

2. In claim 27 delete "A method of exchanging supported on top of each other, working roll sets (6) and backup rolls sets (5) of rolling mill stands (2, 3, 4) of a rolling mill train (10," from lines 1-3 and insert **--A method of exchanging roll sets (5, 6) in rolling mill stands (2, 3, 4) of a rolling mill train (1) having a plurality of rolling mill stands each having a working roll set (6) and a backup roll set (5) supported on top of each other,--**

3. In claim 27 line 8 delete "stands (2, 3, 4)" and insert **--stands (2, 3, 4)--**

4. In claim 27 line 9 delete "connection track (20)" and insert **--connection track (14a)--**

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

It is the opinion of the examiner that the art of record (considered as a whole) neither anticipates nor renders obvious "continuous rails (14) for the transversely

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displaceable carriages (9, 10, 11) and which are placed in a foundation (15) parallel to a rolling direction (13) at fixed distances between the rolling mill stands (2, 3, 4); a single connection track (14a) extending to a roll workshop (20) transverse to the rails for the transversely displaceable carriages (9, 10, 11); and a locomotive (21) displaceable along the connection track (14a) and to which the working roll sets (6, 6a) are attachable and detachable” in combination with the rest of the claimed limitations set forth in claim 22 and neither anticipates nor renders obvious “bringing, in succession, worn-out working roll sets (6) of individual rolling mill stands (2, 3, 4) by separate transversely displaceable carriages (9, 10, 11), a number of which corresponds to a number of rolling mill stands (2, 3, 4) in the rolling mill train (1) and which are displaceable between respective rolling mill stands (2, 3, 4) and a single connection track (14a) leading to a roll workshop (20), onto the connection track and advancing the worn-out working roll sets (6) by a single locomotive into the roll workshop (20); bringing new working roll sets (6a) from the workshop (20) and depositing the new working roll sets (6a) at predetermined exchanged distances (2a, 3a, 4a) on respective transversely displaceable carriages (9, 10, 11) between the rolling mill stands (2, 3, 4) and distributing the new working roll sets (6a) between respective rolling mill stands (2, 3, 4)” in combination with the rest of the claimed limitations set forth in claim 27.

JP Patent 05-115908 to Narishima et al discloses a roll shop and truck for rolling roll comprising of a plurality of carriages (20) each provided with a rail (21) leading between an associated rolling mill stand (11) and a roll rack (14a) and a connection track (43) that is transverse to the plurality of rails (21) for the carriages (20) wherein a cart (40) mounted on the track (43) aligns with a carriage to remove a worn-out roll from the

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carriage and place it in the roll rack (14a) and move a new roll from the roll rack (14a) and place it on the carriage (20) for loading into a rolling mill stand [see FIG 1].

The prior art fails to disclose a single connection track extending from a roll workshop to the rails of the transversely displaceable carriages or a single connection track leading to a roll workshop. Claims 15-27 are allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Debra Sullivan whose telephone number is (571) 272-1904. The examiner can normally be reached Monday - Thursday 10am - 8pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dana Ross can be reached at (571) 272-4480. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Debra M Sullivan/
Examiner, Art Unit 3725

/Dana Ross/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3725